LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 12, Number 3 March 11, 2004

PDF Format

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Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour
a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

February Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Great Lakes Basin	68%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	44%
Lake Superior	88%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	72%
Lake Ontario	51%

Note: These figures

Water Levels are higher than Last Year, but below Average Conditions Remain a Concern

As indicated in the water level information table provided below, water levels on all of the Great Lakes, except Lake Ontario, began March below their long-term average level for this time of year. On the other hand, levels on all lakes are higher than they were at the same time last year.

Although low water level conditions persist on Lakes Michigan-Huron, at the beginning of March these lakes were 10 cm higher than they were at the same time last year and about 25 cm higher than their period-of-record low levels of 1964.

Short-term Forecast

Lake Superior is expected to continue its seasonal decline during March. Water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are expected to begin their seasonal rise over the next several weeks.

Long-term Forecast

What will water levels be like this summer? With the recent touch of spring in the air, this has been a very popular question lately. Unfortunately, it's just too early to say what levels will be like this summer with any confidence.

The water levels of the Great Lakes fluctuate according to weather conditions. Since it is not possible to accurately forecast weather conditions several months in advance a probable range of future levels is provided for each lake in the Monthly Water Level Bulletin prepared and posted by Canadian Hydrographic Service. These forecasted ranges in levels are determined by assuming that high (wet) or low (dry) water supply conditions persist throughout the Great Lakes basin for the next six months.

The February 2004 edition of the Bulletin posted at the beginning of March at: chswww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/ contains the forecast for the period March to August 2004. If you check the Bulletin, you will see that by July the forecasted range in probable levels is 25 to 45 cm wide depending on the lake. Since

are preliminary.

February Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Lake Superior 91%

Lake Erie 96%

Lake Huron 99%

Lake Ontario 110%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

actual water levels will likely fall somewhere within the probable ranges provided, below average water level conditions will most likely continue to be a concern on the Great Lakes this summer.

Although water levels this summer will depend on actual water supply conditions experienced this spring, at this point in time it looks like water levels on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron will be a bit higher this summer than they were last year. Summer water levels on the remaining lakes may, however, be a few centimetres lower than they were last year. Since weather and attendant water supply conditions can change significantly from one month to the next month, it is important to check the Web for the latest Bulletin each month.

Great Lakes Water Level Information

	February Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of March Level	
Lake	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	22 cm below	same	20 cm below	2 cm below
Michigan-Huron	49 cm below	9 cm above	49 cm below	10 cm above
St. Clair	13 cm below	6 cm above	14 cm below	31 cm above
Erie	12 cm below	12 cm above	13 cm below	13 cm above
Ontario	16 cm above	46 cm above	5 cm above	37 cm above

Multi-city Teleconference

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control invites you to participate in a multi-city teleconference on **March 30, 2004 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The purpose of the teleconference is to increase public input about local conditions and concerns related to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River water levels and flows.

You may participate in the teleconference from local meeting sites in Montreal QC, Rochester NY, Watertown NY, Kingston ON, or Burlington ON. For information about the meeting site location in each city and the meeting's format please visit the Boards website at: www.islrbc.org

In order to facilitate logistical arrangements, please be sure to RSVP to one of the Board secretaries by March 24th. Their contact information is also available on the Board's website. Please indicate which local meeting you plan to attend. After you have RSVP'd, you will be notified in advance if the meeting location changes. Updates will also be posted on the Board's website.

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Webmaster
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Important Notices and Disclaimers
URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/ln200403_e.html